

A3PCON UP-TO-DATE

ASIAN PACIFIC POLICY & PLANNING COUNCIL

September/October 2004

Community • Change • Leadership

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3

A3PCON MEMBER AGENCIES

Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Inc
 Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team
 Asian Pacific American Legal Center
 Asian Pacific Counseling & Treatment Centers
 Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, Inc
 Asian Pacific Islanders for Human Rights/
 'Ohana House
 Asian Pacific Womens' Center Inc.
 Asian Youth Center
 Chinatown Service Center
 Families in Good Health
 Gay Asian Pacific Support Network
 Japanese American Citizens League
 Korean American Family Service Center, Inc.
 Korean Resource Center
 Korean Youth & Community Center, Inc.
 Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance
 Little Tokyo Service Center
 Organization of Chinese Americans- LA
 Pacific Asian Alcohol & Drug Program
 Pacific Clinics
 PALS for Health
 Phillipine Action Group for the Environment
 Search to Involve Pilipino Americans
 South Asian Network
 Special Service for Groups
 Thai Community Development Center
 Thai Health and Information Services
 Tongan Community Service Center
 WRAP Family Services

A3PCON Voter Guide for 2004! November 2, 2004 Ballot Propositions

Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON) put together this Voter Guide to help with your voting choices. The positions are based on a majority vote of member organizations and individuals, including: APA Legal Ctr. (APALC), Asian Am. Drug Abuse Prog. (AADAP), Korean Immigrant Workers Advocate (KIWA), Little Tokyo Service Ctr. – Community Dev't Ctr. (LTSC-CDC), Nat'l APA Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA), Pacific Clinics, South Asian Network (SAN), Special Service for Groups (SSG), THAIS Inc., WRAP Family Services. For more info, call 213/388-2834.



Proposition 59 - YES. Would allow citizens more access to government information. Puts provisions of Brown Act into the State Constitution. Needs majority vote. Support - 5: AADAP, California First Amendment Coal., LTSC-CDC, NAPAFASA, SAN, SSG.



Proposition 60 - YES. Would maintain status quo for primaries, where voters receive party-based ballots. Non-partisans can choose party. (Counters Proposition 62.) Would also require surplus state property be sold to pay off \$15 billion deficit bond. Support: APALC, Common Cause, LTSC-CDC, NAPAFASA, SAN, SSG.



Proposition 61 - YES. Would authorize \$750 million in state bonds to expand and remodel children's hospitals. Support: SAN, SSG, THAIS Inc.



Proposition 62 - NO. Would change current elections to remove party-based primaries. (Counters Prop. 60.) In primaries, voters of any party can choose among all candidates. The top two candidates (possibly from same party) would face off in general election. Would not cover presidential primaries. Oppose: APALC, Common Cause, LTSC-CDC, NAPAFASA, SAN, SSG, THAIS Inc.



Proposition 63 - YES. Mental Health Services Expansion and Funding. Would increase the personal income tax of millionaires by 1% to support mental health care costs. Support: Asian Pacific Family Center/Pacific Clinics, SSG, WRAPFS.



Proposition 64 - NO. Would limit individual consumers, immigrants, employees, and advocates right to sue businesses for unfair business practices. Would undermine civil rights, consumer, environmental and other legal challenges. Oppose: AADAP, AARP, APALC, California Nurses Association, Consumers Union, KIWA, MALDEF, LTSC-CDC, NAPAFASA, SSG, SAN, THAIS Inc.



VOTER GUIDE CONTINUES ON THE BACK OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

A3PCON and APIs CAN Urge Governor to protect newly Established Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

On September 10, 2004, Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) and Asian Pacific Islanders California Action Network (API'sCAN) held a press conference in front of the Carpenter Performing Arts Center in Long Beach. This coincided with the California Performance Review that was held in the Center.

Various leaders from the API community spoke out against the recommended termination of the Commission. They included Jury Candelario (President, A3PCON), Mary Anne Foo, (Co-Chair, API'sCAN), Hamid Khan, (A3PCON Vice President of Policy), Assemblymember George Nakano. Members of the API community stood behind the panelists to demonstrate support.

The Commission on APIA Affairs was established by legislation (Assembly Bill 116) authored by Assemblymember George Nakano and co-authored by members of the API Legislative Caucus in 2002. APIs CAN co-sponsored the initiative. The Commission on APIA Affairs consists of 13 members appointed by the Governor and the Legislature, and is charged with advising the Governor, the Legislature, state agencies, departments, and commissions on issues relating to the social and economic development, rights and interests of API communities.

The termination of the Commission on APIA Affairs offers no fiscal benefit to the State and taxpayers as this commission receives no state funding and is supported entirely by private sources. APIs are the fastest growing major ethnic group in California, representing 4 million residents and over 12% of California's population.

The commission is a citizens' commission, comprised of API community leaders from different vocations, backgrounds, and regions of the state; that can give an impartial assessment of the API community's needs and therefore hold the government accountable to the state's 4 million APIs. The Commissioners provide the Governor and the Legislature unfiltered feedback about community needs that might otherwise never reach Sacramento.



Assembly Member George Nakano, Author of Bill 116 speaks at the press conference. In the front row, from L to R: Hamid Khan, George Nakano, Jury Candelario, Mary Anne Foo, and Diane Ujiiye.

API Community Mobilizes Around “Kenny’s Law” In Response To Troubling Verdict on Hate Crime

A bill to strengthen protections for hate crime victims, developed and co-sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) and authored by Assembly Member Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park), recently passed out of the California State Assembly Floor and moved on for debate in the Senate. AB 2428, or “Kenny’s Law,” requires a protective order to be issued when a hate crime perpetrator is released on parole, probation, or through a conditional release program. AB 2428 also gives courts and relevant agencies the option of ordering anti-bias training, counseling or other rehabilitative programs for hate crime perpetrators to prevent future acts of discrimination and violence.

“Kenny’s Law” emerged in response to public concern over the troubling final verdict in the trial for Kenneth Chiu’s murder, *People v. Hearn*. On July 30, 2001, 17-year-old Kenneth Chiu was brutally attacked and killed outside his Laguna Hills home by his neighbor, Christopher Hearn, who immediately confessed to the murder and expressed hatred for Asians and other minorities.

In September 2003, an Orange County Superior Court judge ruled Christopher Hearn unable to tell right from wrong when he killed Kenneth Chiu because of a mental illness, and therefore legally insane at the time of the murder. Although Hearn was found guilty of the hate-motivated killing of his Taiwanese American neighbor during the first phase of the trial, he would not spend any time in jail. Instead, the verdict called for Hearn to be committed to a psychiatric hospital for evaluation and treatment until his sanity has been restored and he is no longer deemed a threat to society.

The decision came as a blow to the Chiu family and community members seeking justice for Kenneth Chiu. APALC, in conjunction with other community groups, immediately issued a strong statement expressing concern over the troubling dual verdict. On December 9, 2003, Assembly Member Judy Chu, chair of the California State Assembly Select Committee on Hate Crimes, held a special session of the Select Committee to address the numerous issues brought up by the hate murder and verdict. The Chiu family and APALC both provided testimony that led to “Kenny’s Law.”

“Kenny’s Law” is supported by A3PCON and many other API and non-API organizations, including A3PCON API Hate Crimes Task Force organizations such as the Korean Resource Center, Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Organization of Chinese Americans and South Asian Network. A3PCON member agencies are urged to join the efforts to pass this bill through the California legislature. For more information on “Kenny’s Law” or other anti-hate crime efforts, please contact Daniel Huang, APALC Hate Crimes Prevention Project Coordinator, at 213-977-7500 ext. 237.

A3PCON Member News!

WRAPFS New Executive Director
WRAP Family Services is pleased to announce the appointment of their new Executive Director, Mariko Kahn. Ms Kahn joins us after 13 years with the Maple Counseling Center. Please join us in welcoming her.

A3PCON & APAIT Bid Farewell to Maria Pena

Maria who has been serving as APAIT's Community Development & Research Manager and A3PCON's HIV/AIDS Caucus Chair left Los Angeles for the East Coast. Maria begins her new journey with the Boston AIDS Consortium in mid-August. Best of luck in your future endeavours, Maria!

A3PCON bids farewell to France Nguyen, Policy Coordinator. Good luck finishing your PhD program at UCLA!

**To submit news, please email kristina@a3pcon.org.*

Love is Love: Raising the Issue of Same-Gender Marriage In the Asian and Pacific Islander Communities, A Town Hall Forum

The Asian Pacific Pride Council sponsored a town hall forum to discuss the issue of same-gender marriage in the Asian and Pacific Islander communities on Saturday, May 15, 2004 at the Centenary United Methodist Church in Little Tokyo.

Asian Pacific Pride Council, a body that includes the Gay Asian Pacific Support Network, Chinese Rainbow Association, Satrang (the gay South Asian group), Asian Pacific Islander for Human Rights, Search to Involve Pilipino Americans, Barangay (the gay Filipino organization), the API Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team, presented ideas on same-gender marriage and engaged in discussion with the community.

One of the most interesting facts learned is that over 4000 Asian Pacific children are being raised by gay parents. Those children could benefit from the economic advantages that marriage brings like shared insurance coverage.

Mary Huth, one of the panelists and who is half Japanese, brought a more personal note to the event by stating that she and her partner have gone through a lot together, which included taking care of her sick mother and going to great pains to have children. She stressed that her relationship was certainly valid and should be recognized, more so than pop star Britney Spears who gets drunk and marries off the cuff.

--Noel Alunit, APAIT

A3PCON's September 15th Signature Event is a Success!



A3PCON collaborated with Asian Americans/ Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy to create a special "Meet the Funders" Reception for A3PCON membership. On left: Panelists pictured here from L to R: Jonathan Weedman, Wells Fargo Foundation; Lina Paredes, Liberty Hill Foundation; Roland Palencia, The California Endowment; Jerry Yu, The Weingart Foundation. Not in picture: Jonathan Macaranas, Washington Mutual. On Right: Over 50 of A3PCON members attended the Signature Event.

VOTER GUIDE CONTINUED.



Proposition 65 - YES. Would prevent the state from taking vehicle license fees, sales and property taxes from local governments. It also would let cities and counties avoid state mandates that did not include state funding within 180 days. Support: LTSC-CDC, NAPAFASA, SAN, SSG, THAIS, Inc.



Proposition 66 - YES. Would change the state's "Three Strikes and You're Out" law, requiring that only serious and violent felonies apply to second and third strike sentencing increases. Support: AADAP, ACLU, LTSC-CDC, NAPAFASA.



Proposition 67 - YES. Would add new surcharges to telephone bills to raise \$550 million a year for emergency personnel training and equipment. It would also reimburse uncompensated emergency care in hospitals and clinics. Support: APHCV, LTSC-CDC, NAPAFASA, SAN, SSG, THAIS, Inc.



Proposition 68. Would allow governor to renegotiate gambling compacts with Indian tribes to require that 25% of their revenue be paid to the state. If tribes didn't agree within 90 days, non-tribal racetracks and other gambling establishments would be able to operate 30,000 slot machines and pay 33% of the revenue to public safety, regulatory and social programs. Competes with Prop. 70.



Proposition 69 - NO. DNA is now collected from convicted felons of certain sex and violent crimes. Initiative would require collection from all persons charged with a felony; if not convicted, the DNA samples would be destroyed. Oppose: AADAP, ACLU, KIWA, League of Women Voters, LTSC-CDC, NAPAFASA, SAN, SSG, THAIS Inc.



Proposition 70. Calls for governor to offer renewable 99-year gaming deals to Indian tribes with exclusive gaming rights and no limits on the number of slot machines. Tribes would provide state some of proceeds based on state's prevailing corporate tax rate. Competes with Prop. 68.



Proposition 71 - YES. Provides constitutional right to do stem cell research in California. Support: LTSC-CDC, NAPAFASA, SAN, SSG, THAIS Inc.



Proposition 72 - YES. Would make large employers (200+ employees) provide health care to employees & dependents; medium employers (50 – 199) to employees only. If not, they would pay into a statewide purchasing pool for employees to receive health insurance. Support: APALC, KIWA, KRC, NAPAFASA, SAN, SSG, THAIS Inc. www.saveyourhealthcare.com

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